launchers, electronic and communication systems, guided weapons systems, laser based devices, recovery vehicles, training simulators etc.

3. Although it was a land and naval systems exhibition, some of the companies also displayed their range of aircrafts and helicopters for military and civil applications and associated systems.

4. No negotiations for procurement of equipment were formally conducted during the Exhibition with the companies.

Skilled/unskilled employees in Jabalpur based factories

†2535. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in Jabalpur based ordnance factories and the percentage of skilled and unskilled employees in them;

(b) whether the ratio of skilled and unskilled employees is ideal for better production and if not, the measures being taken in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for not utilising the technical trained youth there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There are 17,513 Industrial Employees in Jabalpur based ordnance factories namely Gun Carriage Factory, Vehicle Factory, Grey Iron Foundry and Ordnance Factory, Khamaria. The percentage of skilled and unskilled employees is 41.5% and 16.07% respectively.

(b) This percentage is considered adequate for meeting the existing workload in these factories.

(c) Induction in the ordnance factories is based on functional requirement of the posts in the factory. Whenever manpower is

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

recruited, ex-trade apprentices are given preference and to that extent the trained youth is utilised.

Modernisation of ordnance depots

†2536. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration for modernisation of major Ordnance Depots of armed forces in the country;

(b) the total number of incidents of fire taken place in Ordnance Depots during the year 2001-2002 alongwith the total loss of lives and property therein; and

(c) whether Department has formulated any comprehensive scheme to check recurrence of incidents of fire in future; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government of India have decided to modernize all the seven Central Ordnance Depots located at Agra, Mumbai, Chheoki, Delhi Cantonment, Dehu Road, Jabalpur and Kanpur in a phased manner. However, to begin with modernization of Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur involving an expenditure of Rs. 187 crores approximately has been taken up. This project would be completed by December, 2003.

Four incidents of fire have been reported in Ordnance/ Ammunition Depots during 2001-2002. The estimated loss of arms and ammunition, Government property and human lives in the fires/

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.